

# History House Herald



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: Department welcome

Page 2: Student Internships

Page 3: COPLAC

Undergraduate Research  
Conference

Pages 4&5: Faculty Spotlights

Pages 6&7: Alumni Spotlight

Page 8: Department-  
Organized Speakers at MCLA

Page 9: Model UN & Mt.  
Greylock Hike

Page 10: Save the Date & Fall  
2022 Course offerings

## NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, ANTHONY DALY

On behalf of the department, welcome to 2022! As I write this, we are entering a spring semester that again will be different because of Covid. After a fully in-person fall, I hope that this spring will follow the same pattern, after we complete safety protocols in the first week. It was such a refreshing change to return to normal teaching. Students and faculty continue to face many challenges in the classroom and with mental health as the pandemic continues; thank you to our students for your continued patience and perseverance, and I wish you a healthy and productive semester.

For our seniors who are graduating, congratulations on your resilience and success in these difficult times. Less than 40% of adult Americans hold a four-year college degree, and your achievement means even more given the demands on students during a pandemic. We look forward to celebrating with you in May; stay tuned to see if we can gather in person or if our department banquet will be virtual.

In faculty news, we are fortunate that Dr. Sean Scanlon has joined our department as a visiting assistant professor for the 2021-22 academic year. Dr. Scanlon holds a Ph.D. in US history from the University of Nebraska, and his expertise in 20th century American history makes him an ideal professor for courses such as "US and WWII," "US Foreign Policy," and "Religion and Politics in the US."

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUES ON PAGE 10**

# Internships

OUR DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH ALUMNI, LOCAL DONORS, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR AN ENDOWED INTERNSHIP LEGACY FUND DESIGNATED FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT. ALONG THOSE SAME LINES, WE ARE EXCITED TO CONTINUE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUTH E. PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST THAT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY. TOGETHER, THESE TWO FUNDS LOOK TO REMOVE COST AS A CONSIDERATION AS MOTIVATED, HARD-WORKING STUDENTS DETERMINE WHICH INTERNSHIP IS BEST FOR THEM.

## Ian Smith- The Washington Center

"I applied to The Washington Center internship Academic Internship Program to broaden my knowledge on nonprofits and **gain work experience in Washington DC**. I interned with the Qatar America Institute for Culture, an organization that looks to improve and deepen ties between the United States, Qatar, and its broader region. One positive highlight about this internship was the **ability to network** with other interns in the DC area. Another positive from this internship is I now have published work. As part of my internship, I wrote an article for Qatar America's quarterly magazine."



"I also helped research for upcoming events. For example, I researched the best types of Qatari films to show in the local Arab film house. I also drafted social media posts focusing on the art history of Qatar. One aspect of the Washington Center program that is unique is the class you take while doing your internship. I took Multimedia and Politics. For the final of this class, I had to pitch an idea for a future lecture series within the class. I chose Comedy and Politics. The professor liked the pitch so much, I was given the chance to explain my thought process behind my pitch to the fall semester Washington Center program interns. Other highlights included going to the Smithsonian, The International Spy Museum, and Six Flags America with my fellow interns."

# COPLAC undergraduate research conference



MCLA IS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES (COPLAC). EACH YEAR STUDENTS APPLY TO PRESENT ORAL OR POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE. THIS YEAR, DUE TO COVID, ALL PRESENTATIONS WERE VIRTUAL. STUDENTS PRE-RECORDED THEIR PRESENTATION AND ATTENDED A LIVE Q&A SESSION THAT WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE COPLAC RESEARCH CONFERENCE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY STUDENTS HAVE TO PRESENT ORIGINAL RESEARCH. MANY STUDENTS ALSO PRESENT AT MCLA'S SPRING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE. IN THIS ISSUE, WE TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO WORK BY STUDENT EMILY KELLEHER.

## Emily Kelleher

### “Compensation and Freedom: Life with Company H 119th USCI”

Here's what Emily said about the project and experience: “My project was concerned with finding out more information about Company H of the 119th Regiment of USCI (United States Colored Infantry), based in Kentucky. I utilized digitized historical records (military service records and pension indexing cards) through Fold3 and Ancestry.com to build a general idea of where these men came from, what their time in Company H was like/what were their tasks, and if they applied for pensions following their service.

#### **What made you interested in this topic?**

Dr. Kleintop first approached me with the idea for this project! I had never heard of the USCI before and had very minimal knowledge of the varying experiences of black soldiers (free and formerly enslaved) during the war. So for me, this project started as an outside idea to me and became more and more intriguing as I dived into the research. Now that I know a bit more about the lives of these men, I have so many more questions and just want to continue searching for answers.

#### **Was this research part of a course paper? Which course?**

This was not part of a course paper, instead it was a project I undertook with Dr. Kleintop for MCLA's Summer Research Institute. In the **Summer Research Institute** students, under faculty guidance, take on a summer research project of their choosing and get paid for it!

#### **Describe the COPLAC URC experience-- what were 1-2 positive takeaways?**

My COPLAC URC experience was really interesting--- in a good way! I have presented online before, but never in a pre-recorded way. So, it was a real learning curve in trying to create a presentation that was so mapped out. I usually am a more “in-the moment” type of presenter- for better or for worse- so it was a bit difficult creating and adapting my presentation to this style. However, **I learned so much from it and believe that I was successful in the end.** It was also great to hear from the people who watched my presentation! Their questions were really intriguing and were great potential starting off points for further research- which is always great!

# Faculty Sabbaticals

IN FALL 2020, HISTORY PROFESSOR KAILAI HUANG AND POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR DAVE CUPERY WERE ON SABBATICAL. FACULTY SABBATICALS ARE A TIME FOR US TO DIVE DEEPER INTO A PROJECT. AS FACULTY, WE LOVE TEACHING AND BEING IMMERSSED IN THE LIFE OF THE CAMPUS BUT, THE SABBATICAL IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO RECHARGE AND TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO WORK THAT IS HARD TO GET TO WITH THE NORMAL BUSINESS OF THE SEMESTER. HERE'S A SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORK (AND FUN!) DR. HUANG AND DR. CUPERY COMPLETED WHILE ON SABBATICAL. PROFESSOR ANTHONY DALY WILL BE ON SABBATICAL IN SPRING 2022, AND OUR NEXT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT WILL FEATURE HIS RESEARCH.

## Here are some highlights from Dr. Dave Cupery:

“Being able to step away for a bit was particularly nice during the pandemic, as I am sure many of you can imagine. However, the pandemic also limited what I was able to do for research during the sabbatical semester. I mainly used the semester to work on finishing up my existing research projects, which largely deal with understanding how different parts of the world view and interact with the world’s great powers. These great powers include the United States, China, and other large countries that were often former colonizers.

One paper I have co-authored examines how the populations of former colonies think about their former colonizers today. For example, what do people in Nigeria currently think of the United Kingdom or people in Brazil think of Portugal? This question is important for understanding how history – including historical political violence and oppression – influence which countries have the most power and influence today in shaping the world’s politics, economics, and cooperation on important challenges. I **presented this research in October at the International Political Economy Society’s annual conference in Boulder, Colorado and submitted the paper for peer review to the British Journal of Political Science**. The anonymous peer reviewers liked enough in the paper that they asked my co-author and me to make some changes in the analysis before re-submitting, hopefully for publication.

Another paper I have been revising and improving is a paper **co-authored with a former student, Corey Powers**, which we presented before the pandemic at the New England Political Science Association conference. That paper should be submitted to a journal for review and, hopefully, publication by the time you read this.



Dr. Cupery in El Valle de Anton (top)  
And at the Panama Canal (below)



Since research travel was off the table, I decided to do a bit of ‘fun’ travel in Latin America to reconnect with the region I study and its language. I spent one week in Panama. Because of the pandemic, largely avoided the people and cultural gatherings I would normally prioritize and instead spent the days hiking in the mountains and rainforest of this small yet incredibly biodiverse country. It is a place I plan to return to when the public health situation improves.

# Faculty Sabbaticals – Continued

Here are some highlights from Dr. Kailai Huang:

## What were your sabbatical projects?

I had two sabbatical projects: 1) advance my research in the field of Sino-American relations, with a focus on the Taiwan issue in the complicated and potentially dangerous US-China dynamics. **This research will enhance the seminar course The US and China** I teach on regular basis by providing students with an expanded historical perspective on the US-China-Taiwan triangle relationship, past and present; 2) further hone my skills in remote teaching. The current pandemic situation has raised an urgent need for faculty to commit to using online learning platforms such as Canvas.

## How will your sabbatical be reflected in your time back on campus ?

During the sabbatical leave, I have been keeping abreast of the new scholarship in Sino-American relations by reading monographs and journal articles. I have identified a recently published and well-reviewed book *The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy to Displace American Order* by Rush Doshi (Oxford, 2021) and adopted it for the upcoming seminar course *the US and China* in spring 2022.

Students will benefit from its historically informed insight based on primary sources. Building on my last year's success in using Canvas in teaching, **I have developed new contents for the upper-level History of Japan in spring 2022.** Mainly I set up modules that have weekly discussions. I surveyed different databases to select primary sources with discussion questions. I hope this practice will engage students more in class participation and enhance their historical thinking.

## Did you travel anywhere for work/pleasure during your sabbatical?

Given the constraints on international travel, I took a 7500 miles road trip to New Mexico and Texas. I visited 7 national parks and numerous historical sites, including two presidential libraries (LBJ Library in Austin and Bill Clinton Library in Little Rock). It was a great experience of America's natural wonders and a rewarding education of American history.

## What are you most looking forward to coming back to campus in spring?

I am looking forward to finding out how students react to the online primary-source discussions in HIST310 History of Japan.

## What was your best moment from sabbatical?

My best moment was hiking in the Big Bend National Park in Texas, especially wading across the Rio Grande into Mexico!



Dr. Huang at the Lyndon B Johnson Library & Museum

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THIS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT IS ON BRYAN VEGA. HE GRADUATED IN 2019 WITH A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE. BRYAN IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON VOTING RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO VOTING FOR THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND.



**Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying, and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?**

After earning a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in American Ethnic studies, I have decided to pursue a career in the legal field. Since graduation, I have found employment working as a legal secretary for plaintiffs' attorneys' offices. As a legal secretary, I am responsible for the upkeep of the legal documentation, as it pertains to civil cases. I am responsible for establishing the clerical relationship between a case that has been filed at an office and the court where the case has been filed.

Currently, I have the privilege of working for the **Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a civil rights non-profit law firm**. MALDEF has committed its efforts to the protection of the civil rights of Latinos in the United States located in Los Angeles, CA. As a MALDEF legal secretary, I am responsible for maintaining the relationship between a case filed by MALDEF and the court where the case has been filed. As a MALDEFIAN, I am exposed to the innovative impact litigation as it pertains to areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, political access, and access to justice.

**Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?**

I appreciate the History and Political Science department for creating a welcoming learning environment and for their encouragement for students to challenge themselves. Even though I embarked on **a Mexico-Travel course, delegated at Model United Nations, it is my American Political Institutions (API) course that I recall fondly**. Growing up a first-generation Mexican immigrant, I always felt disenfranchised by the same institutions that claimed me. I appreciate API because it educated me on the institutions that exist to serve the people. I did not know it at the time, but API exposed me to the institutions that I would be utilizing in the future to create change. **API challenged us with a mock Congress simulation, which required: quick-critical thinking, collaboration, and methodic problem-solving**. I encourage all students to consider taking API, because I think there is something of interest there for everyone. It is a course that has a very "familiar-feeling" to it.



**MCLA's 2019 Mexico Travel Course**

## Alumni Spotlight Continued

**What is your long term professional goal, and how has it changed, if at all, since you started out at MCLA?**

I have a long-standing dream of becoming an attorney and completing a dissertation in the field of political science. MCLA played an evolutionary role by allowing me to actualize my educational dreams. **After having earned 1 of the 3,186 bachelor's degrees in political science that were awarded to Latino men in 2019, I felt ready to move on to that 'next thing'** (DataUSA, 2019). Since graduation, I have been working on establishing the foundation I will need to take the next step in my career, which is attending law school. Although, I am not sure when I will find time to squeeze in an additional degree in my career, I am aware that I have a lot more to learn about the science of politics.

**If you had an internship during your time at MCLA, could you describe it and anyway it has helped you?**

Under the guidance of my advisor Dr. Pettey, **I interned at Southern California Immigration Project (S.C.I.P.), a non-profit immigration law firm that offers direct legal services.** Under the supervision of an attorney, I offered client-based assistance in cases pertaining to migrants seeking political asylum in the United States at the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in Calexico, CA. One of the greatest takeaways from my time at S.C.I.P. was the exposure to global migration. I was fortunate to be placed in a position where I was able to assist people who were fleeing terror. During my internship, I conducted intakes and translated the narratives of political asylees in which they depict the horrors they have endured. There are times when I feel like I am very far away from being able to help people, but then I remind myself that being able to help someone in any capacity is a good enough incentive to keep working towards my goals. I am very grateful for my experience at S.C.I.P. and for the guidance of the attorney and Executive Director, Elizabeth Lopez.

**Are there particular skills, knowledge, or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?**

Most recently, I was assigned to work on a **voting rights access case** for the organization I work for, MALDEF. MALDEF (along with other plaintiffs) sued the state of Illinois over malapportioned districts that were drawn following the 2020 census. The intersectionality of voting rights, and law, in this case, exposed me to the legal defense mechanisms that are available to continue the protection of voting rights and access to voting rights. Being a part of a historic case, such as Contreras v. ISBE, served as an inspiration for the work I would like to do in the future.

The case against the Illinois State Board of Elections was heard before a panel of three judges, and because of my limited experience with the law, there were times during the trial that I felt a little lost in the law. Fortunately, because of my academic discipline in political science, I understood the subject well enough to be able to conceptualize the stages of the case by combining my experience in court relations with my knowledge of elections and electoral systems.

**Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?**

The one thing that I wish I would have done differently at MCLA is to simply believe in myself more and to remind my colleagues that I believe in them. So, to my fellow Porter House people, **"Believe in yourself! You have been called to the "higher" History and Political Science table, & we are honored to have you!"**



## Department-organized Speakers

MCLA WORKS HARD TO BRING TIMELY AND NOTABLE SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS. STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN OUR DEPARTMENT ARE PIVOTAL IN ORGANIZING THE ANNUAL MICHAEL S. AND KITTY DUKAKIS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE SERIES, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE RUTH PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST. THIS LECTURE SERIES IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF OUR LECTURE SERIES, WITH RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDING AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST TA-NEHISI COATES, THE LATE JOURNALIST COKIE ROBERTS, JOURNALIST AND POLITICAL/SOCIAL ACTIVIST GLORIA STEINEM.

THIS FALL, WE WERE LUCKY TO HAVE AN IN-PERSON PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE. THE CAMPUS AND BROADER COMMUNITY WELCOMED TIME MAGAZINE AND AUTHOR OF "THE BIG VAPE", JAMIE DUCHARME TO CAMPUS. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED OUR ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY TALK WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> TO CELEBRATE THE RATIFICATION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LECTURE SERIES: CONTACT DR. SAMANTHA PETTEY AT S.PETTEY@MCLA.EDU

### Public Policy Lecture Series

#### "Big Vape: The Incendiary Rise of Juul"

#### Jamie Ducharme

On Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, Jamie Ducharme joined the MCLA community for our annual lecture series. Jamie works as a TIME magazine health reporter and spoke with the community about her new book, "The Big Vape: The Incendiary Rise of Juul". The lecture took place in Church St Center and drew many audience questions about the importance of regulation on tobacco products, especially when concerning the youth populations. Jamie also met with a small group of students for a personal Q&A session. A fun welcome was having Alum Dennis Ducharme '82, Jamie's father, back to campus to introduce her at the lecture series.



Students, Dennis Ducharme, Samantha Pettey, Jamie Ducharme, and President Birge\*



Students at Jamie Ducharme's Book Signing\*

### Constitution Day 2021

#### "Is this the Most Conservative Supreme Court In the Modern Era?"

Dr. Paul M. Collins, Jr. joined us on campus for a lecture on the additions of Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney-Barrett, which solidified a Supreme Court with six justices appointed by Republican presidents. While conservatives praised this development, liberals expressed fear that the Supreme Court will restrict abortion access, roll back civil rights and liberties guarantees, and expand the power of business interests. This lecture explored these possibilities, including how we as a nation got to this moment, and what to expect from the Supreme Court in the 2020s and beyond.



## Model United Nations

MCLA political science and history students have a long history of successful participation in Model UN conferences. The pandemic changed the nature of our participation, but our group of students was still remarkably successful during the spring 2021 semester. Prof. Cupery's Model UN course participated in two virtual conferences: The North American Model United Nations Conference (hosted by the University of Toronto) and the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference (normally hosted in Charlotte, North Carolina). Both conferences had the normal mix of global crises, current and historic, to confront. MCLA delegates represented the college well, with Jack Anderson, Chris Cozzaglio, and Dean Allen Little all taking home individual awards. The highlight of the spring semester was being recognized as the Best Small Delegation by the North American Model United Nations Conference. It was very rewarding to have our group preparation pay off! Spring 2022 sees our Model UN course returning to an in-person conference (location TBD) and the fall semester will hopefully see our Political Science Club's Model UN group returning to a regional conference. For more information on the Model United Nations course, which happens each Spring semester, please contact Professor Cupery :

[d.cupery@mcla.edu](mailto:d.cupery@mcla.edu)



MCLA's 2020 MUN Delegation



MCLA's 2019 MUN Delegation @ U.Toronto



At the start of every Fall semester, students, faculty, and staff are invited to hike Mt. Greylock, the tallest mountain in Massachusetts. This is a fun welcome-back activity that our department has turned into a nice tradition for us all, too. This year faculty members David Cupery, Anthony Daly, Kailai Huang, Samantha Pettey, and Sean Scanlon hiked to the top. We were also joined by a handful of majors--- Brevan Bove, David Perez Pacheco, Ian Smith, and Lindzie White. We all had a great time reconnecting with each other and look forward to next year's annual hike--- we hope you'll join us!



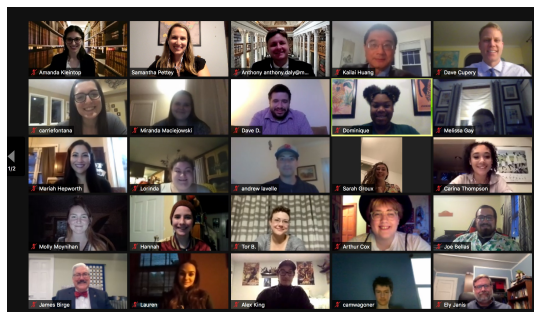
## Message from the chair cont'd

Dr. Scanlon fills the position formerly held by Dr. Mariah Hepworth, who accepted a permanent position at another institution in the summer; it was a great opportunity for her, as the position at MCLA was temporary, and we wish her the very best. In fall 2022, we look forward to welcoming back Dr. Ely Janis, one of our American history specialists, who will complete a three-year term as Dean of Academic Affairs in June.

With so much happening in America and the world that demands our attention and understanding, it has perhaps never been important to study history and political science. I wish you all the best in your work this semester. As always, do not hesitate to contact anyone in the department if you need advice or assistance. You can find our contact information, and much more, at [mcla.edu/hist](http://mcla.edu/hist) and [mcla.edu/posc](http://mcla.edu/posc).

## SAVE THE DATE!

Each year, the department has an end-of-year banquet to celebrate our graduates, induct students into our two honors societies (Phi Alpha Theta- History and Pi Sigma Alpha- Political Science), and announce department awards. This year we are planning for **May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30**. We are keeping our fingers crossed to celebrate in-person. Here's some screenshots from our virtual banquet last Spring!



## UPCOMING FALL 2022 COURSE OFFERINGS

### History

- HIST 104: Pre-Modern World Civilization
- HIST 113: US History before 1877
- HIST 114: US History after 1877
- HIST 125/HONR 101: World Regional Geography
- HIST 220: Reformers, Rebels... E. Asia
- HIST 230: War, Science, and Society
- HIST 290: Historical Methods and Theory
- HIST 305: Britain from 1688
- HIST 320: Legacies of Slavery & Freedom
- HIST 320: TBD
- HIST 403: Asia and the West

### Political Science

- POSC 201: US Government
- POSC 202: Comparative Government
- POSC 210: Political Science Research and Methods
- POSC 302: Campaigns and Elections
- POSC 308: Women in Politics
- POSC 333: Politics of War & Conflict
- POSC 420: Global Development
- POSC/HIST: 450 Career Readiness Workshop

